



AN OUTLINE OF COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MAKING NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING WORK IN SAN DIEGO

SDPD Crime Prevention
May 3, 2017

The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) is committed to working in a problem-solving partnership with individuals, community groups, and businesses, as well as with schools, hospitals, religious groups, private organizations, and other government agencies to fight crime and improve the quality of life for the people of San Diego. Problem solving is a key component in the Department's philosophy of Neighborhood Policing, which focuses on community crime and disorder problems and recognizes the need for close relationships between the police and other elements in the City to identify and solve problems. However, Neighborhood Policing cannot succeed on the efforts of the police alone. All elements of the City have responsibilities to fulfill.

A great deal has been written about police responsibilities in Neighborhood Policing. These include the following:

- Participating in community groups and activities
- Listening to community concerns
- Prioritizing, addressing, and solving certain community problems
- Helping the community address and solve other problems
- Establishing and supporting crime prevention programs
- Responding to calls for service
- Investigating crimes
- Apprehending those who commit crimes
- Helping to convict persons charged with crimes
- Providing various other police services

Relatively little has been written about community responsibilities, i.e., those of individuals, community groups, and businesses. The SDPD has defined the following 12 community responsibilities for making Neighborhood Policing work in San Diego.

1. Voicing concerns about disorder problems
2. Employing crime prevention measures
3. Knowing about crime in your neighborhood
4. Addressing and solving certain community problems
5. Volunteering services to police and other community groups
6. Commenting on SDPD personnel performance in Neighborhood Policing
7. Reporting crimes and suspicious activities
8. Reporting suspicious people, activities, vehicles, etc. to prevent terrorism
9. Reporting other problems and incidents
10. Helping to arrest, convict, and punish criminals
11. Getting help with personal and family problems
12. Exercising parental authority

Outlines of the topics in these papers are shown below. Links to the papers that discuss them are on the SDPD website at www.sandiego.gov/police/services/prevention/community. The first six are discussed in one paper. The others are discussed in separate papers. The responsibilities of schools, health care providers, religious groups, private organizations, and other government agencies that deal with public health, safety, welfare, housing, criminal justice, etc. are also critical; however, they are beyond the scope of these papers.

TOPICS IN COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. VOICING CONCERNS ABOUT PROBLEMS

- In the Community
- To the Police

2. EMPLOYING CRIME PREVENTION MEASURES

- SDPD Services
- Other Information Sources

3. KNOWING ABOUT CRIME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- SDPD Website
- Crime Mapping
- Crime Alerts
- Registered Sex Offenders
- Nextdoor.com

4. ADDRESSING AND SOLVING COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

- Illegal Activities on Rental Properties
- Litter, Trash, and Pollution
- Inoperable Vehicles
- Graffiti
 - Retailers
 - Community Groups
- Crime in General

5. VOLUNTEERING SERVICES

- SDPD Volunteer Programs
- Volunteers in Policing
- Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol
- Crisis Intervention Team
- Cadets
- Reserves
- Interns
- SDPD-Recognized Community Groups
 - Neighborhood Watch
 - Business Watch
 - San Diegans United for Safe Neighborhoods
- Youth Programs

6. COMMENTING ON SDPD PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE

7. REPORTING CRIMES AND SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

- Emergencies
- Non-Emergencies
 - SDPD
 - Other Law Enforcement Agencies
- Providing Information about Crimes
 - SDPD
 - Crime Stoppers

8. REPORTING SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE, ACTIVITIES, VEHICLES, ETC. TO PREVENT TERRORISM

- Emergencies. Call 911
- Non-Emergencies. Call SDPD at (619) 531-2000 or (858) 484-3154
- Other Indicators of Terrorist Activities

9. REPORTING OTHER PROBLEMS AND INCIDENTS

- Graffiti
- Litter
- Animals
- Unsafe Street Conditions
- Code Violations
- Neighborhood Nuisances
- Barking Dogs
- Abandoned Shopping Carts
- Child Abuse
- Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse
- Lost Person with Alzheimer's Disease
- City Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

10. HELPING TO ARREST, CONVICT, AND PUNISH CRIMINALS

- Testifying in Court
- Making a Citizen's Arrests
- Actions by Businesses and Property Owners

11. GETTING HELP WITH PERSONAL AND FAMILY PROBLEMS

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Mental Health
- Other Problems
- Legal Information
- Conflict Resolution
- Crime Victim and Witness Services

12. EXERCISING PARENTAL AUTHORITY

- STAR/PAL Youth Programs
- Dealing with Specific Problems
 - Adolescent Relationship Abuse
 - Alcohol
 - Bullying
 - Child Abduction
 - Curfew Violation
 - Daytime Loitering and Truancy
 - Drugs
 - Gangs
 - Graffiti Vandalism
 - Gun Violence
 - Internet and Cell Phone Dangers
 - Media and Game Violence
 - Shoplifting
 - Suicide
 - Unsafe Driving
- Multiple Problems
- Parental Liability
 - Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor
 - Liability for Fines, Penalties, and Restitution
 - Liability for Civil Damages
 - Civil Liability for Injury Caused by Firearms
 - Restitution through Mediation